THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAM BHAI PATEL): (a) According to new guidelines for watershed development issued by Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, watershed projects of approximately 500 hectares each will be taken up for development under Drought Prone Areas Programme, Desert Development Programme, integrated Wastelands Development Programme, Employment Assurance Scheme (50%) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana Second Stream (50%). In order to involve local peopde in the planning and implementation of the projects, watershed community will be organised into Watershed Association whicr will be registered as a Society under the Registration of Societies Ac.. For carsying out day-to—day activities of the watesshed development projects, there will be a Watershed Committee consisting of 10 to 12 Members which will be nominated by the Watershed Association.

(b) and (c) Under National Watershed Development Projects for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) of Ministry of Agriculture, local community is organised into self-help groups and user groups for carrying out different sets of activities in the watershed project area. Mitra Krishak Mandals are also constituted to coordinate the activities of the projects. In their nature and functioning, these groups and Mandals are synonymous with Watershed Associations and Watershed Committees.

Peoples' Participation in Financing Watershed Management

764. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: With the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn up plans to involve peoples' participation in financing watershed management;

(b) what are the details of plans for peoples' participation; and

(c) whether any of the States have been involved in drawing up such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Consequent to the recommendations of the Technical Committee headed by Dr. C. H. Hanumantha Rao, which reviewed the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP), it has been decided that area development from 1995-96 onwards will be undertaken on watershed basis only. For this purpose, in addition to the allocations under DPAP, DDP and Wastelands Development Programmes, 50% of the allocations under Intensified Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme would also be utilized. People's participation in the proposed watershed management projects will be ensured by vesting planning and implementation of the watershed projects in the democratically constituted lonal self government institutions such as Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities, Zilla Parishads and voduntary organisations. The Gram Panchaya would function through a Watershed Association comprising of all members of the Gram Panchayat and a Watershed Committee, a nominated body of the Watershed Association.

(c) All the concerned State Governments/Districts have been requested to constitute committees for watershed project planning, implementation and review at the State, District and Watershed levels and finalise the annual plans for development of the identified watersheds.